



**STATE OF ARKANSAS
ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
OSH-CFOI DIVISION**

**10421 WEST MARKHAM • LITTLE ROCK, AR 72205-2190
Phone: 501-682-4542 Fax: 501-682-4754 TRS: 800-285-1131**

November 20, 2008

For More Information Contact: Don Cash
OSH/CFOI Division
Arkansas Department of Labor
Phone (501) 682-4542

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Arkansas Workplace Injury and Illness Case and Demographic Data Released

In 2007, there were 7,590 nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses involving days away from work in Arkansas private industry. This number was down by over 14 percent compared to 8,850 cases in 2006.

These findings are from the Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses, which is an annual survey conducted by the Arkansas Department of Labor, OSH/CFOI Division in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Survey data is collected in order to assist employers, safety professionals and policymakers in identifying safety and health issues in the state. Occupational injury and illness data are collected from approximately 4,000 Arkansas employers each year.

This is the third release reporting on 2007 data. The first release, in August 2008, covered work-related fatalities from the 2007 Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries. In October 2008, the release reported 34,300 total nonfatal injuries and illnesses in Arkansas in 2007, a decrease of 9 percent from 2006. This release covers the circumstances of the injuries and illnesses as well as the characteristics of the workers involved in the cases that required a day or more away from work.

Other results from the Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses for the State of Arkansas include:

- The survey reported 2,700 nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses with days away from work in the total goods-producing sectors, while the service-providing sectors had 4,890 nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses with days away from work.
- Men accounted for 65.2 percent of the nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses with days away from work in 2007.
- Workers who were 45 to 54 years old accounted for 26 percent of the total number of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses with days away from work, while workers who were 35 to 44 years old made up 24.9 percent.
- Workers with one to five years of service with an employer accounted for 32.9 percent of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses with days away from work in 2007.

Four characteristics are used to describe the event that caused an occupational injury or illness – nature of injury or illness, part of body affected, source of injury or illness, and event or exposure.

- Nature - Sprains and strains accounted for 44.1 percent of the nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses with days away from work in 2007. The second most common nature category was fractures at 9 percent.
- Part of body – The body part affected in 32.3 percent of the nonfatal occupational injuries and illness with days away from work in 2007 was the trunk, mostly back injuries.
- Source – Floors and ground surfaces were the sources of injury in 22.3 percent of all nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses with days away from work in 2007.
- Event or Exposure – Contact with objects and equipment accounted for 29.8 percent of all events or exposures of injuries or illnesses with days away from work in 2007. Overexertion was the second most common event at 22.1 percent.

Please refer to the accompanying tables for more detail. Additional tables and charts are available upon request.

Arkansas Private Industry

Table 1. Percent distribution of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses involving days away from work¹ by selected worker and case characteristics, 2003-2007

Characteristic	2003 Private Industry ^{2,3,4}	2004 Private Industry ^{2,3,4}	2005 Private Industry ^{2,3,4}	2006 Private Industry ^{2,3,4}	2007 Private Industry ^{2,3,4}
Total Cases	11,110	10,040	10,370	8,850	7,590
Total Percentage	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Gender					
Men	64.5	64.2	68.9	65.1	65.2
Women	35.1	35.3	30.5	34.4	34.3
Age					
14 to 15	-	-	-	-	-
16 to 19	5.0	2.3	4.0	3.1	3.8
20 to 24	10.8	11.4	10.7	10.8	9.0
25 to 34	23.0	27.2	21.3	23.2	20.9
35 to 44	27.2	28.1	24.1	24.1	24.9
45 to 54	23.6	20.3	26.8	22.9	26.0
55 to 64	9.1	8.3	10.7	13.1	13.7
65 and over	1.4	2.7	2.4	2.8	1.8
Length of service with employer:					
Less than 3 months	14.9	16.2	16.7	15.9	16.1
3 to 11 months	22.7	21.9	26.0	25.4	24.1
1 to 5 years	35.1	35.0	31.4	31.4	32.9
More than 5 years	26.8	26.4	25.3	26.7	26.2
Race or ethnic origin:					
White	61.8	62.7	65.4	61.8	61.3
Black or African American	12.5	10.8	13.1	11.0	10.4
Hispanic or Latino	3.5	4.7	5.6	3.8	5.4
Asian	0.5	0.2	0.2	-	0.3
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	-	-	0.3	-	-
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3
Hispanic and other	-	-	-	-	-
Multi-race	-	-	-	-	-
Not reported	21.2	21.0	15.3	22.8	22.3

See footnotes at end of table 3.

Arkansas Private Industry

Table 2. Percent distribution of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses involving days away from work¹ by selected worker and case characteristics, 2003-2007

Characteristic	2003 Private Industry ^{2,3,4}	2004 Private Industry ^{2,3,4}	2005 Private Industry ^{2,3,4}	2006 Private Industry ^{2,3,4}	2007 Private Industry ^{2,3,4}
Total Cases	11,110	10,040	10,370	8,850	7,590
Total Percentage	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Nature of injury or illness					
Sprains, strains	41.0	38.2	45.6	48.8	44.1
Bruises, contusions	5.4	8.8	11.5	8.8	7.4
Cuts, lacerations	5.9	10.4	9.3	7.2	7.1
Punctures	0.9	0.6	1.5	0.7	4.6
Fractures	8.6	8.6	9.6	9.5	9.0
Heat burns	2.1	1.1	1.5	1.5	1.2
Carpal tunnel syndrome	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.1	1.4
Tendonitis	-	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.3
Chemical burns	1.3	0.4	0.5	1.0	0.8
Amputations	0.3	0.8	0.7	0.9	1.8
Multiple injuries	3.2	4.1	3.3	4.3	6.5
Part of body affected					
Head	6.7	7.0	5.9	6.7	5.9
Eye	2.9	4.2	2.2	2.5	2.2
Neck	6.3	1.4	1.2	0.8	2.0
Trunk	32.6	35.3	38.6	38.8	32.3
Shoulder	7.2	5.8	10.1	6.9	6.1
Back	20.1	23.5	22.2	23.2	20.3
Upper extremities	20.1	22.4	23.4	20.2	24.2
Arm	4.7	4.0	4.8	4.0	6.1
Wrist	4.9	3.9	5.1	3.5	4.0
Hand (except finger)	3.7	4.0	3.7	3.1	3.3
Finger	5.9	9.8	8.1	8.1	10.0
Lower extremities	22.8	24.4	21.1	22.6	21.7
Knee	10.0	10.9	9.3	7.5	9.1
Ankle	4.5	4.3	4.1	6.4	4.9
Foot (except toe)	3.9	6.2	2.8	3.5	3.4
Toe	-	1.3	0.7	1.4	0.7
Body Systems	1.8	1.3	1.9	1.2	2.2
Multiple Parts	9.7	8.3	7.7	9.7	11.5

See footnotes at end of Table 3.

Arkansas Private Industry

Table 3. Percent distribution of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses involving days away from work¹ by selected worker and case characteristics, 2003-2007

Characteristic	2003 Private Industry ^{2,3,4}	2004 Private Industry ^{2,3,4}	2005 Private Industry ^{2,3,4}	2006 Private Industry ^{2,3,4}	2007 Private Industry ^{2,3,4}
Total Cases	11,110	10,040	10,370	8,850	7,590
Total Percentage	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Source of Injury or Illness					
Chemical, chemical products	2.9	1.4	1.0	2.3	1.6
Containers	9.3	9.1	12.2	11.3	8.8
Furniture, fixtures	2.4	4.7	2.9	3.3	3.4
Machinery	7.4	7.4	10.1	8.9	10.7
Parts and materials	9.0	11.4	11.8	12.0	11.7
Person, injured or ill worker	17.9	18.7	11.7	10.8	8.2
Worker motion or position	17.0	18.5	11.5	10.6	7.9
Floor, ground surfaces	17.7	16.6	16.0	22.0	22.3
Handtools	5.0	6.1	5.7	4.0	6.1
Vehicles	11.7	9.5	14.8	10.7	9.9
Person, other than worker	7.3	5.0	3.5	7.7	7.6
Health care patient	6.6	4.9	2.5	6.8	5.8
Event or Exposure					
Contact with object, equipment	22.2	30.4	27.6	24.9	29.8
Struck by object	8.8	15.8	12.7	11.5	16.3
Struck against object	6.2	7.5	6.2	5.9	6.5
Caught in object, equipment, material	6.5	6.7	8.0	6.0	5.9
Fall to lower level	4.1	3.2	6.6	9.5	6.6
Fall to same level	14.6	14.6	11.0	10.7	17.4
Slips, trips	3.2	2.4	3.2	2.0	2.4
Overexertion	21.4	20.1	26.0	25.5	22.1
Overexertion in lifting	13.8	13.7	12.5	17.4	10.9
Repetitive motion	3.0	3.0	2.9	3.2	2.6
Exposed to harmful substance	6.9	4.4	5.1	6.3	4.1
Transportation accidents	8.7	5.2	7.6	5.6	4.5
Highway accident	7.4	4.3	4.2	3.8	2.2
Fires, explosions	0.2	0.4	0.9	-	0.3
Assaults, violent act	2.8	2.2	0.7	0.9	3.3
by person	1.8	0.8	0.3	0.7	3.0
by animal	1.0	1.4	0.5	-	0.3

¹ Days away from work include those that result in days away from work with or without job transfer or restriction.

² Excludes farms with fewer than 11 employees.

³ Data for mining (Sector 21 in the *North American Industry Classification System* - United States, 2002) include establishments not governed by the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) rules and reporting, such as those in oil and gas extraction and related support activities. Data for mining operators in coal, metal, and nonmetal mining are provided to BLS by the Mine Safety and Health Administration, U.S. Department of Labor. Independent mining contractors are excluded from the coal, metal, and nonmetal mining industries. These data do not reflect the changes the Occupational Safety and Health Administration made to its recordkeeping requirements effective January 1, 2002; therefore estimates for these industries are not comparable to estimates in other industries.

⁴ Data for employers in railroad transportation are provided to BLS by the Federal Railroad Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation. These data do not reflect the changes the Occupational Safety and Health Administration made to its recordkeeping requirements effective January 1, 2002; therefore estimates for these industries are not comparable to estimates in other industries.

Note: Because of rounding and data exclusion of nonclassifiable responses, data may not sum to the totals.

Dashes indicate data that are not available or do not meet publication guidelines.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses, in cooperation the Arkansas Department of Labor.